Methods Trial #3

My third project is a type of webquest.

I had a class of twelve students that were broken into six teams of two. Each of the six teams was given an assignment to complete web based research of new technology found in the current automotive market. The assignment was not limited to any particular vehicle manufacturer or vehicle component but rather any area of new automotive technology. Once the team determined the topic for research they had to have it approved by me so we did not have everyone researching the same new technology.

After being given one week to complete the assignment each team of two was required to make a 10 minute presentation to the class about the new technology information they found. Each student was required to share in the presentation equally. The topics of research included new infrared night vision systems, electronic transmissions, vehicle lane departure systems, heads-up display systems, hybrid technology changes, and electric vehicles. The teams were asked to compare any similar systems found in other manufacturer’s vehicles and give their evaluation of pros and cons of each system.

After the presentation, each team answered questions from the class regarding the new technology. The class members were able to pose various questions regarding concerns about the viability and purpose of the new technology systems.

At the end of the class presentations I gave a quiz to the class comprised of 4 questions on each presentation to verify comprehension of the subject matter. Most of the students did surprisingly well but the fact they knew there would be a quiz after the presentations influenced that outcome.

My observation was the students, faced with being responsible for making a presentation was motivating them to pay attention and dig for true understanding. Knowing they would be asked questions from the class about their research was another motivating factor. It appeared to be personally satisfying to the students as they took pride in their research of new product technology.